



ASSOCIATION  
FOR BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTHCARE



We hope this message finds you well. As we embark on a new edition of our eUpdate, we're thrilled to welcome you to another round of engaging content and updates that matter. Thank you for being part of our community. Your feedback and suggestions are invaluable to us. Feel free to reach out and let us know what topics you'd like us to cover or if there's anything specific you'd like to see in future editions.

## This Month's eUpdate

Every month, ABH compiles important information and resources to keep you updated and informed. Here is a glimpse of what you can expect in this month's eUpdate:

- [ABH Annual Meeting](#)
- [June Health Care Provider Cybersecurity Call](#)
- [New ABH Board Members](#)
- [Proposed ACCS Rates](#)
- [State Releases Opioid Related Overdose Report](#)
- [Support and Stabilization Rates RFR Deadline Extended](#)
- [Analysis of the Senate Ways and Means Budget](#)
- [July 2024 Committee Schedule](#)
- [Save the Date: NatCon25](#)
- [Interesting Reads](#)

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**Save the Date: ABH Salute to Excellence**



DREAM...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE



Friday, October 25th, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

ABH's [Salute to Excellence](#) is a celebratory day when we recognize individuals and groups, with an emphasis on clinical and direct care staff, who have made outstanding contributions to community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts. This year's celebration will take place at the [Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center](#) from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event program will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Registration for ABH's 2024 Salute to Excellence is now open! [Click here to register](#), and join us in congratulating this year's Salute to Excellence Award winners. The deadline to register is Friday, October 11. Stay tuned for awardee nomination forms!

We are offering various sponsorship, exhibitor, and advertisement opportunities for this year's Salute to Excellence:

- **Sponsorship** conveys your commitment to the field of behavioral healthcare. Your generous support also helps keep registration fees low for attendees.
- **Exhibitors** will have access to decision-making executives and a variety of networking activities during the day.
- **Advertisements** can be purchased to be included in our Virtual Program Book, which will be digitally accessible to all event attendees, which will allow your company to call attention to your presence at the event, introduce your products and services, and make an impression on providers across Massachusetts.

Serving as a sponsor for ABH's Salute to Excellence is a great way to increase your company's visibility and recognition. Click [here to access](#) our 2024 Sponsor and Vendor Opportunities Information packet and click [here](#) to access our online selection form.

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## The National Council for Mental Wellbeing Webinar: Promoting Social Equity for Underrepresented Individuals in the Workforce

**July 18 from 12:00-1:00 PM**

The experiences of people from historically underrepresented groups in the mental health and substance use treatment workforce often are impacted by their identities. This webinar will focus on understanding how one's identity can play a role in their career path. Join us for a powerful panel discussion where our speakers will share their experiences navigating the workforce. We will learn about the impact of positionality through a social justice lens and identify strategies to uplift historically marginalized voices within the workforce.

Learning Objectives:

- 1.) Understand the experiences of people from underrepresented groups in the workforce.
- 2.) Learn how to support and advocate for underrepresented individuals.
- 3.) Recognize the impact of positionality when promoting social equity.

**Register [here](#).**

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## CBHI Listening Session

MassHealth has informed providers that they are beginning their biennial review of CBHI rates. In anticipation of this review, MassHealth has scheduled a virtual provider listening session on **Wednesday, July 17, 2024, both from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** (A public hearing will be scheduled at a later date). The listening session is part of the rate review process and are separate from other provider engagement activities currently taking place regarding CBHI services.

There are scheduled times for each CBHI service model:

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Intensive Care Coordination and Family Support and Training
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	In-Home Behavioral Services
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Therapeutic Mentoring
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	In-Home Therapy

MassHealth invites all providers of these services to attend the listening sessions and provide any information you would like MassHealth to consider during the rate review. If you plan to attend, please take note of the following instructions:

- **July 17<sup>th</sup> Listening Session:** If you plan to attend and speak at this session, please email Jennifer Hallisey at [Jennifer.Hallisey@mass.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Hallisey@mass.gov) by the **end of day July 12, 2024**. To register for this listening session, please use this Zoom link: [https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJ0vfu-orDkgHNPc\\_RfDkPYWURsd3zmqCiHo](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJ0vfu-orDkgHNPc_RfDkPYWURsd3zmqCiHo). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the
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meeting.

## 2024 Virtual National Provider Compliance Conference

MassHealth also encourages providers to submit written information if you are unable to attend these sessions or would like to provide more detailed information. Please email any written feedback to Jennifer Hallisey at [Jennifer.Hallisey@mass.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Hallisey@mass.gov) by **August 7 & 8 from 12-4 p.m. end of day Monday, July 22, 2024**. Comments provided at the listening sessions will not automatically be part of the official public hearing process. A public hearing will be held at a later date for this regulation when providers can submit official testimony. [Register](#) for this conference by July 31, 2024.

Join CMS for this virtual conference that will:

- Feature expert presentations on Medicare Fee-for-Service claims
- Provide a unique learning and networking opportunity

Target audience: Anyone who processes Medicare Part A and Part B, home health, hospice, or DME claims, including physicians, non-physician practitioners, billing specialists, suppliers, associations, coders, and medical review contractors.

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## Department of Children and Families S&S25 Request for Responses

DCF published the Q&A document for the DCF S&S25 RFR on Friday, June 28, 2024. The document is entitled [DCF S&S25 Responses to Written Inquiries Received Between 2:01 PM May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and 2:00 PM June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024](#). The amended procurement calendar is as follows:

- Response(s) Due: **August 16, 2024 at 2:00 PM**
- Anticipated Review of Responses: Response review may start as early as September 2024 and will continue until completion.
- Anticipated Notification of Selection Decisions: Notifications may start as early as December 2024.
- Anticipated Negotiations: Negotiations may start as early as January 2025.
- Anticipated Execution of Contracts: Execution of contracts may start as early as February 2025.
- Anticipated Start Date of Contracts: **No earlier than March 1, 2025.**

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## Save the Date!

### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance Through HIPAA Security Conference

**October 23–24, 2024**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are excited to announce the return of the “Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance through HIPAA Security” conference for October 2024. After a 5-year absence, the conference is returning to Washington, D.C.

**Dates:** October 23–24, 2024

**Location:** HHS Headquarters (Hubert H. Humphrey Building) in Washington, D.C.

**Content:** The conference will explore the current healthcare cybersecurity landscape and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule. This event will highlight the present state of healthcare cybersecurity, and practical strategies, tips and techniques for implementing the HIPAA Security Rule. The Security Rule sets federal standards to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of electronic protected health information by requiring HIPAA covered entities and their business associates to implement and maintain administrative, physical and technical safeguards.

The conference will offer sessions that explore best practices in managing risks to and the technical assurance of electronic health information. Presentations will cover a variety of topics including managing cybersecurity risk and implementing practical cybersecurity solutions, understanding current cybersecurity threats to the healthcare community, cybersecurity considerations for the Internet of Things (IoT) in healthcare environments, updates from federal healthcare agencies, and more.

Registration will open later in the summer.

Please contact [ocrpresents@hhs.gov](mailto:ocrpresents@hhs.gov) with questions or if you have recommendations for topics to include in the agenda.

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## **National Council for Mental Wellbeing Webinar**

### **Workforce Solutions Jam**

### **Bridging the Gap : Addressing Disparities in Mental Health Licensure Exam Success**

**Jul 16, 2024 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.**

We are experiencing a sustained mental health workforce crisis in the United States. Despite the acute need for more clinicians, we lose thousands of licensure-track therapists from the workforce every year due to candidates' inability to pass licensure exams. And those outcomes are not evenly distributed by demographic: more than 30% fewer Black-identifying test-takers pass their licensure exams than their White-identifying counterparts. In this session, we will examine data, test-makers' response through test changes, and recommendations for improving outcomes.

Key highlights of this webinar include:

- Understand licensure exam pass-rate data, the problem they present, and test-makers' response through recent test changes
- Discuss recommendations for improving outcomes across all licensures and test-taker demographics
- Learn about leadership development programs designed to improve workforce and leadership diversity

This webinar is hosted as a partnership between the College for Behavioral Health Leadership (CBHL), The National Council for Mental Wellbeing, and Health Management Associates (HMA).

This event is open to members of the behavioral health workforce, current and prior service users, peers, policymakers, providers, researchers, educators, activists, advocates – anyone who is interested in participating in the co-creation of solutions to address the behavioral health workforce crisis.

The event will be recorded and shared with all registrants via email following the event. If additional services would improve your experience, please contact Holly Salazar at [hsalazar@leaders4health.org](mailto:hsalazar@leaders4health.org).

Register [here](#).  
**J-July 2024 Committee Schedule**

Friday, July 12  
**Corporate Compliance**, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 16  
**OTP**, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, July 22  
**ACCS Services**, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31  
**Psychiatric Day Treatment**, 1 p.m.

ABH's Committees are the "grassroots" of our organization. To learn more about ABH's Committees, [click here](#).

**Save the Date: NatCon25**



**May 5-7, 2025**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

NatCon25 is more than just an event. It's an opportunity to invest in yourself, your team and your organization alongside thousands of health care leaders.

NatCon25, the largest conference in mental health and substance use, offers three days of nonstop learning, networking and entertainment.

You'll get to:

- Explore the trends and innovations shaping our field.
- Share experiences with colleagues who've "been there, done that."

- Grow your learning portfolio and expand your skills by earning continuing education credits.
- Hear from and network with representatives from federal agencies.
- Take a break to rejuvenate and reconnect.

Don't miss the biggest event in behavioral health care in 2025 — join us and 5,000+ health care professionals in downtown Philadelphia from May 5-7!

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## J-Interesting Reads

- [Mass. overdoes deaths dropped 11% in 2023, according to CDC data. WBUR.](#)
- [Federal Panel Prescribes New Mental Health Strategy to Curb Maternal Deaths. Kaiser Health News.](#)
- [Psychoactive Drugs are Having a Moment. The FDA will Soon Weigh In. Kaiser Health News.](#)
- [Americans see disparities in mental and physical care, survey finds. Washington Post.](#)
- [California pays people with addiction to stay clean -- with feds' blessing. Washington Post.](#)

## **ABH Staff**

[Click here](#) to learn more about ABH staff, and to access and download a staff directory.

### **Lydia Conley**

President and CEO

[lconley@abhmass.org](mailto:lconley@abhmass.org)

857.371.2502

### **Carmel Craig**

Vice President for Mental Health Services

[ccraig@abhmass.org](mailto:ccraig@abhmass.org)

857.371.2503

### **Liz Ganz**

Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy

[eganz@abhmass.org](mailto:eganz@abhmass.org)

857.371.2508

### **Jonna Hopwood**

Vice President for Addiction Treatment Services

[jhopwood@abhmass.org](mailto:jhopwood@abhmass.org)

857.371.2506

### **Megan Thompson**

Senior Assistant to President/CEO & Office Administrator

[msocha@abhmass.org](mailto:msocha@abhmass.org)

### **Kristen Hackney**

Senior Director of Behavioral Health Policy Transformation

[khackney@abhmass.org](mailto:khackney@abhmass.org)

857.245.9007

### **Stephanie Hirst**

Third Party Billing Specialist

[shirst@abhmass.org](mailto:shirst@abhmass.org)

351.203.8316

### **Ellen Caliendo**

Business Manager

[ecaliendo@abhmass.org](mailto:ecaliendo@abhmass.org)

351.203.8316

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